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EXAMINER

RYMAN, DANIEL J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/613,940	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SIMONS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Daniel J. Ryman	<b>Art Unit</b> 2665	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3 and 5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement filed 11/13/2000 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. In line 6 of claim 21, it is unclear if the phrase "the central switch fabric subsystem" refers to the first or the second central switch fabric subsystem. For the purposes of prior art rejections, Examiner will interpret "the central switch fabric subsystem" to be "the second central switch fabric subsystem".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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6. Claim 1, 7, 11-13, 16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ardon et al. (USPN 5,105,420).

7. Regarding claim 1, Ardon discloses a network device, comprising: a central switch fabric subsystem (ref. 25); and a distributed switch fabric subsystem (ref. 11) coupled to the central switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63).

8. Regarding claim 7, referring to claim 1, Ardon discloses that the distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises: a distributed data transfer subsystem (ref. 11) (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63); and a distributed controller subsystem (ref. 14) coupled with the distributed data transfer subsystem for controlling network data transfer through the distributed data transfer subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63).

9. Regarding claim 11, referring to claim 1, Ardon inherently discloses a distributed switch fabric subsystem interface coupled with the distributed switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data with the distributed switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) since the subsystem must contain an interface where the interface is the connection between the subsystem and other components.

10. Regarding claim 12, referring to claim 1, Ardon discloses that the distributed switch fabric subsystem is a first distributed switch fabric subsystem (ref. 11) and further comprising: a second distributed switch fabric subsystem (ref. 12) coupled to the central switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem and the first distributed switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) where “transferring network data” includes both direct and indirect transfers.

11. Regarding claim 13, referring to claim 1, Ardon discloses that the central switch fabric subsystem comprises: a central controller subsystem (ref. 26) coupled with the distributed switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) where "coupled" includes both direct and indirect couplings; and a central data transfer subsystem (ref. 25) coupled with the central controller subsystem and the distributed switch fabric subsystem for transferring network data with the distributed switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63).

12. Regarding claim 16, referring to claim 12, Ardon discloses that the central controller subsystem comprises a scheduler component (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) where, as broadly defined, the scheduler is used to schedule the reconfigurations.

13. Regarding claim 20, Ardon discloses a network device, comprising: a central switch fabric subsystem (ref. 25); and a plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems (refs. 11-13) coupled to the central switch fabric subsystem, wherein each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems is capable of transferring network data with each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems through the central switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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15. Claims 2-6 and 25-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ardon et al. (USPN 5,105,420) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Mazzola et al. (USPN 5,740,171).

16. Regarding claim 2, referring to claim 1, Ardon does not expressly disclose that the distributed switch fabric subsystem is located on a line card. Mazzola teaches, in a switch system, that a switch is typically a computer comprised of interconnected cards, including line cards (col. 1, lines 29-39 and col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to locate the distributed switch fabric subsystem on a line card since switches are typically implemented on line cards.

17. Regarding claim 3, referring to claim 2, Ardon in view of Mazzola, as broadly defined, discloses that the line card is a forwarding card since each line card forwards information out of the card (Ardon: col. 11, lines 6-63 and Mazzola: col. 1, lines 29-39 and col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 8).

18. Regarding claim 4, referring to claim 1, Ardon does not expressly disclose that the central switch fabric subsystem is located on at least one switch fabric card. Mazzola teaches, in a switch system, that a switch is typically a computer comprised of a variety of interconnected cards (col. 1, lines 29-39 and col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 8) where one of the various interconnected cards is broadly defined as a switch fabric card. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to locate the central switch fabric subsystem on at least one switch fabric card since switches are typically implemented using cards.

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19. Regarding claim 5, referring to claim 1, Ardon discloses that the central switch fabric subsystem comprises: a controller subsystem (ref. 26) (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63); and a central data transfer subsystem (ref. 25) coupled with the controller subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63). Ardon does not expressly disclose that the controller subsystem is located on a first switch fabric card or that a portion of the central data transfer subsystem is located on a second switch fabric card. Mazzola teaches, in a switch system, that a switch is typically a computer comprised of a variety of interconnected cards (col. 1, lines 29-39 and col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 8) where, as broadly defined, the controller subsystem is located on the supervisor card and the transfer subsystem is located on one of the variety of other cards, such as a line card. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to locate the controller subsystem on a first switch fabric card and to locate a portion of the central data transfer subsystem on a second switch fabric card since switches are typically implemented using cards.

20. Regarding claim 6, referring to claim 5, Ardon in view of Mazzola suggests that another portion of the central data transfer subsystem is located on a third switch fabric card (another of the variety of other cards) (Mazzola: col. 1, lines 29-39 and col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 8).

21. Regarding claim 25, Ardon discloses a network device, comprising: a central switch fabric subsystem (ref. 25); and a switch fabric interface and a distributed switch fabric subsystem (ref. 11) (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63). Ardon does not expressly disclose that a plurality of switch fabric cards comprise the central switch fabric subsystem or that a forwarding card coupled with the switch fabric cards comprises the switch fabric interface and distributed switch fabric subsystem. Mazzola teaches, in a switch system, that a switch is typically a computer

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comprised of a variety of interconnected cards (col. 1, lines 29-39 and col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 8). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a plurality of switch fabric cards comprise the central switch fabric subsystem since switches (i.e. central fabric subsystem) are typically implemented using cards. In addition, the line cards of a switch system can be broadly interpreted as a forwarding card since each line card forwards information out of the card. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a forwarding card coupled with the switch fabric cards comprise the switch fabric interface and distributed switch fabric subsystem since switches (i.e. distributed switch fabric subsystem) are typically implemented using cards, including line cards.

22. Regarding claim 26, referring to claim 25, Ardon in view of Mazzola discloses that the distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises: a data slice subsystem for transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem (Ardon: Fig. 1-3 and 6; col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15; and col. 11, lines 6-63) where the data slice component breaks messages into slices in order to allow transfer of the message in time slots.

23. Regarding claim 27, referring to claim 26, Ardon in view of Mazzola suggests that the data slice subsystem comprises: a plurality of data slice components for transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem (Ardon: Fig. 1-3 and 6; col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15; and col. 11, lines 6-63) since each card contains multiple ports.

24. Regarding claim 28, referring to claim 27, Ardon in view of Mazzola discloses that the distributed switch fabric subsystem further comprises: a controller subsystem connected to the



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data slice subsystem for controlling which network data the data slice subsystem transfers (ref. 14, Ardon) (Ardon: Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63).

25. Regarding claim 29, referring to claim 27, Ardon in view of Mazzola discloses that the distributed switch fabric subsystem further comprises: a local timing subsystem coupled with the controller subsystem and the data slice subsystem in order to synchronize the network (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where the local timing subsystem is the component in the local subsystem which synchronizes to the network control and timing links.

26. Regarding claim 30, referring to claim 25, Ardon in view of Mazzola implicitly discloses that the switch fabric interface comprises a switch fabric interface component (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) since the switch fabric must contain an interface where the interface is the connection between the switch and other components.

27. Regarding claim 31, referring to claim 25, Ardon in view of Mazzola, as broadly defined, discloses that the central switch fabric subsystem comprises: a scheduler coupled with the distributed switch fabric subsystem for scheduling network data transfers (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) where, as broadly defined, the scheduler is used to schedule the reconfigurations which contain data transfers.

28. Regarding claim 32, referring to claim 25, Ardon in view of Mazzola discloses that the central switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing subsystem and wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing subsystem and further comprising: a central timing subsystem (ref. 2030) coupled to the local timing subsystems (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where the local timing subsystem is the component in the local subsystem which synchronizes to the network control and timing links.

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29. Regarding claim 33, Ardon discloses a network device, comprising: a central switch fabric subsystem (ref. 25) (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) and at least one local timing subsystem (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where the use of time slots requires a synchronization mechanism and where the local timing subsystem is the component in the local subsystem which synchronizes to the network control and timing links; and a forwarding mechanism comprising: a switch fabric interface (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) where it is implicit that the switch fabric contains an interface since the switch fabric communicates with other devices; a data slice subsystem coupled with the switch fabric interface for transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63) where Ardon discloses the use of time slots which necessitate a "data slice subsystem" such that the network data is cut into the time slices (col. 11, lines 41-47); a data slice controller (switch controller) coupled with the data slice subsystem for controlling network data transfer by the data slice subsystem (Fig. 6 and col. 11, lines 6-63); and a local timing subsystem coupled with the data slice subsystem and the data slice controller (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where the use of time slots requires a synchronization mechanism; and a central timing subsystem (ref. 2030) coupled with the at least one local timing subsystem within the central switch fabric subsystem (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where "the local timing subsystem is the component in the local subsystem which synchronizes to the network control and timing links. Ardon does not expressly disclose that a plurality of switch fabric cards comprise the central switch fabric subsystem or that a forwarding card couples with the switch fabric cards. Mazzola teaches, in a switch system, that a switch is typically a computer comprised of a variety of interconnected cards where the interconnected cards include forwarding cards (line cards) (col. 1, lines 29-39 and col. 3, line 64-

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col. 4, line 8) where the line cards, as broadly defined, are forwarding cards since the line cards forward information out of the switch. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a plurality of switch fabric cards comprise the central switch fabric subsystem and to have a forwarding card coupled with the switch fabric cards since switches are typically implemented using cards.

30. Claims 8-10, 14, 15, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ardon et al. (USPN 5,105,420).

31. Regarding claim 8, referring to claim 7, Ardon discloses as prior art that the distributed switch fabric subsystem further comprises: a local timing subsystem coupled with the distributed data transfer subsystem and the distributed controller subsystem in order to synchronize the network (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where the local timing subsystem is the component in the local subsystem which synchronizes to the network control and timing links. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a local timing subsystem coupled with the distributed data transfer subsystem and the distributed controller subsystem in order to synchronize the network.

32. Regarding claim 9, referring to claim 7, Ardon discloses that the distributed data transfer subsystem comprises a data slice component (Fig. 1-3 and 6; col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15; and col. 11, lines 6-63) where the data slice component breaks messages into slices in order to allow transfer of the message in time slots.

33. Regarding claim 10, referring to claim 7, Ardon, as broadly defined, discloses that the distributed controller subsystem comprises an enhanced port processor component (Fig. 6 and

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col. 11, lines 6-63, esp. col. 11, lines 27-33) where “enhanced” is a broad term since it is not defined by the claim.

34. Regarding claim 14, referring to claim 13, Ardon discloses as prior art that the central switch fabric subsystem further comprises: a local timing subsystem coupled with the central controller subsystem in order to synchronize the network (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where “couple” includes both direct and indirect couplings and where the local timing subsystem is the component in the local subsystem which synchronizes to the network control and timing links. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a local timing subsystem coupled with the central controller subsystem in order to synchronize the network.

35. Regarding claim 15, referring to claim 13, Ardon discloses as prior art that the central switch fabric subsystem further comprises: a local timing subsystem coupled with the central data transfer subsystem in order to synchronize the network (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15) where “couple” includes both direct and indirect couplings and where the local timing subsystem is the component in the local subsystem which synchronizes to the network control and timing links. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a local timing subsystem coupled with the central data transfer subsystem in order to synchronize the network.

36. Regarding claim 18, referring to claim 1, Ardon discloses, as prior art, that the central switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing subsystem and wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing subsystem and further comprising: a central timing subsystem (ref. 2030) coupled to the local timing subsystems in order to

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synchronize the network (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a central timing subsystem coupled to the local timing subsystems in order to synchronize the network.

37. Regarding claim 19, referring to claim 18, Ardon discloses that the central timing subsystem is located within the central switch fabric subsystem (ref. 2030) (Fig. 1-3 and col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 15).

38. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ardon et al. (USPN 5,105,420) as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Dai et al. (USPN 6,246,692).

39. Regarding claim 17, referring to claim 12, Ardon does not expressly disclose that the central data transfer subsystem comprises a cross-bar component. Dai teaches, as prior art, that cross-bar switching is a common type of switching (col. 1, lines 25-34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the central data transfer subsystem comprise a cross-bar component since cross-bar is a well known type of switching.

40. Claims 21-24, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ardon et al. (USPN 5,105,420) as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of Blanc et al. (USPN 6,411,599).

41. Regarding claim 21, referring to claim 20, Ardon does not expressly disclose that the central switch fabric subsystem is a first central switch fabric subsystem and further comprising: a second central switch fabric subsystem coupled with the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems, wherein each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems is capable of

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transferring network data with each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems through the second central switch fabric subsystem. Blanc teaches, in a switching system, providing two switch fabric subsystems where each switch subsystem is connected to the same inputs in order to ensure continuous switching processes through redundancy (col. 1, lines 48-53 and col. 2, lines 16-34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a first central switch fabric subsystem and a second central switch fabric subsystem coupled with the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems, wherein each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems is capable of transferring network data with each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems through the second central switch fabric subsystem in order to ensure continuous switching processes through redundancy.

42. Regarding claim 22, referring to claim 21, Ardon in view of Blanc discloses that one of the first and second central switch fabric subsystems comprises a primary central switch fabric subsystem and the other of the first and second central switch fabric subsystems comprises a redundant central switch fabric subsystem (Blanc: col. 1, lines 48-53 and col. 2, lines 16-34).

43. Regarding claim 23, referring to claim 21, Ardon in view of Blanc discloses that certain ones of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems comprise primary distributed switch fabric subsystems and certain others of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems comprise redundant distributed switch fabric subsystems (Blanc: col. 1, lines 48-53 and col. 2, lines 16-34).

44. Regarding claim 24, referring to claim 23, Ardon in view of Blanc discloses that at least a portion of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems provide a 1:N redundancy scheme (Blanc: col. 1, lines 48-53 and col. 2, lines 16-34).

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45. Regarding claim 34, Ardon discloses a method of operating a network device, comprising: switching network data through a central switch fabric subsystem (ref. 25) and a plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems (refs. 11-13). Ardon does not expressly disclose that at least one of the distributed switch fabric subsystems comprises a primary distributed switch fabric subsystem and at least another one of the distributed switch fabric subsystems comprises a redundant distributed switch fabric subsystem; removing the primary distributed switch fabric subsystem from the network device during network device operation; and switching over to the redundant distributed switch fabric subsystem. Blanc teaches, in a switching system, providing two switch fabric subsystems where each switch subsystem is connected to the same inputs in order to ensure continuous switching processes through redundancy (col. 1, lines 48-53 and col. 2, lines 16-34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have at least one of the distributed switch fabric subsystems comprise a primary distributed switch fabric subsystem and at least another one of the distributed switch fabric subsystems comprises a redundant distributed switch fabric subsystem; to remove the primary distributed switch fabric subsystem from the network device during network device operation; and to switch over to the redundant distributed switch fabric subsystem in order to ensure continuous switching processes through redundancy.

46. Regarding claim 35, referring to claim 34, Ardon in view of Blanc discloses that the central switch fabric subsystem is a first central switch fabric subsystem and further comprising: switching network data through a second central switch fabric subsystem and the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems; removing one of the first and second central switch fabric subsystems from the network device during network device operation; and switching over to the

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other of the first and second central switch fabric subsystems (Blanc: col. 1, lines 48-53 and col. 2, lines 16-34).

*Conclusion*

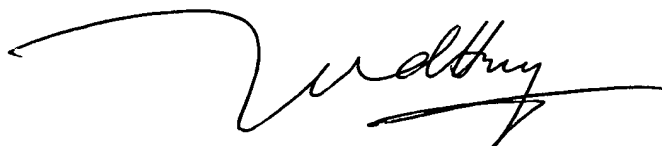
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Ryman whose telephone number is (703)305-6970. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:00-5:00 with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (703)308-6602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel J. Ryman  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2665

DJR  
Daniel J. Ryman



HUY D. VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600